

Tille Parker Tavern
(Now D.A.R. Historical Museum)
26 The Green
Woodstock
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-28
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TILLE PARKER TAVERN
(Now D.A.R. Historical Museum)

Street Address: 26 The Green, Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont

Present Owner: The Ottauquechee Chapter, Inc., of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Associates.

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Historical Museum

Brief Statement of Significance: Built originally as a tavern to house State representatives when the legislature met in Woodstock, this structure presently houses historical exhibits and documents relating to local history.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built and originally owned by Tille Parker.
2. Date of erection: 1807
3. Architect: No information
Builder, suppliers, etc.: Tille Parker with local labor.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Unknown
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The house survives essentially unaltered. The rear ell, which contains the kitchen, appears to have originally been a single room but is now partitioned into two rooms. The gambrel roof over the rear ell is not original and the shape of the original roof is not known.
6. References:
Henry Swan Dana, A History of Woodstock, Vermont, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Boston and New York, 1889, p. 148.
Old Buildings Project of the Robert Hull Fleming Museum at the University of Vermont, Burlington, 1937-1938.
Mrs. J. Peter Gratiot, Otis Hill Farm, Woodstock, Vermont.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Tille Parker, the builder and original owner of the tavern, was established in the clothing business in the neighboring town of Bethel, Vermont, in 1797. He moved to Woodstock in 1806 to open his

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tavern for the accommodation of the members of the State Legislature, which held its session in Woodstock in the fall of 1807.

- C. Supplemental Material: Quoted from descriptive sheet distributed by the D.A.R. Historical Museum, Woodstock, Vermont:

Ottauquechee Chapter, Inc.

D.A.R.
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

Located Opposite The
Town Hall
Woodstock, Vermont

This is one of the oldest houses in town, built in 1807, by Tillie Parker, for the accommodation of the members of the Legislature which held its session in Woodstock in the fall of that year.

Attention is called to the five "Tear Drops" over each window, a very peculiar architectural feature of that era, and the beautiful Paladian window on the second floor above the door.

This building and its contents are the property of the Ottauquechee Chapter, Inc., Daughters of the American Revolution and Associates.

Included among its treasures you will find a marble bust by the famous sculptor of the Greek Slave, Hiram Powers; two drums and a fife used in the Revolution; muskets and swords and other articles from the former George C. Randall G.A.R. Post; pictures of 45 of the early governors of Vermont; records of the Sons of Temperance; of School District No. 8 from 1829, and other organizations in early Woodstock; and much interesting memorabilia of the Woodstock Railroad.

The Museum is kept open from July 1st through October 12th, on Tuesday mornings from 10 to 12 and Friday afternoons from 2 to 5, and is gladly opened by request to Mrs. Walter S. Moore, phone 433-M.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby
November 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Well-preserved example of a small early tavern.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-a-half stories, plus cellar. Front block approximately 45' x 20', plus rear ell, approximately 12' x 32'.
2. Foundations: Random stone foundations, plus modern concrete reinforcing abutments.
3. Wall construction: Hewn timber frame with clapboards.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Porch along east side of the house, one story high, with four crudely modified Roman Doric wood columns.
5. Chimneys: Two chimneys
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Four-panel back door. Six-panel side door on east leading to porch. Front door--six panel with fan light built on a three-centered arch set in a simple, wood, moulded frame with pilasters and pediment.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Flat topped variant of Palladian window over entrance with six light over six light center window flanked by three light over three light side windows with simple moulded entablature across the top of the window. Other windows - six light over six light double hung with fixed slat shutters. Ornamented lintels over first floor front windows and side windows with a pentad, reeding motif.
7. Roof: Gable roof over front portion, gambrel roof over rear ell. Boxed moulded eaves with dentil course on front.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Central hall type with double interior chimneys with a single room to either side of the central hall and with kitchen in the ell to the rear. Second floor arrangement similar. All rooms now devoted to historical displays.
2. Stairways: Straight run stairway in central, entrance hall with simple, unornamented balustrade and jig saw ornament on outer stringer.
3. Flooring: Wide pine flooring throughout.

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4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered, painted.
5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel interior doors.
6. Trim: Moulded wood trim.
7. Hardware: Brass front door knob (possibly not original). All other hardware wrought iron.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Fireplaces only. No modern heating, although the D.A.R. intends to install central heating soon with a recent donation of money.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Faces north on a narrow lot.
2. Enclosures: White picket fence across the front.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal - lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers.

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